

## INGRAM ON STATEHOOD.

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pared, fortified and trained in political tactics and opens wide her lovely arms, hoisted high her beautiful banner of freedom, reaches far her strong and powerful hand of life long experience freely, gladly and cheerfully welcomes us behind her back to be shielded from abuse and injustice. I cannot see why a rational minded negro can refuse or reject such a liberal offer. Some one may say, why not white man. Too well the white man is protected under a democratic administration. A negro is not and another may say well there are many financial advantages we will have if we are given a separate state. Say reader, you insult me, you annoy me, you harass me, you vex me, you invoke my wrath, you cause me to overshoot myself, you have bought and paid dearly for my contempt, you have purchased my eternal hatred when you ask me to sacrifice my liberty, civil, political rights for a financial advantages. Some sappy-headed race leader will say the negro should divide politically. I do not call such men race leaders. They are really race destroyers. The ballot box is the only shield, shelter and protection an American citizen has. It is the only sword, dagger or weapon constitutionally given us to make war upon injustice, it is an adopted plan by which every liberty loving man can assist in correcting the errors, opposing the wrongs, dethroning the unjust, eradicating the evils and protecting ourselves from diabolical and atrocious laws and to teach the negro that he should allow some other man to exercise his sublime constitutional right of his and that he (the negro) has no business or right to concern. Politics is to teach him that he is an inferior man. Well, you say, he is ignorant. What are you going to do with the ignorant white man. Well, you say, he is poor. What are you going to do with the poor white man. Well, you may say he has not been free long enough. What are you going to do with that wretched demon that enslaved him. Remember what Plato said, "he who commits injustice becomes more wretched than he who endures it." To teach the negro to stay out of politics is to teach him that the man who tries to enslave, oppress, abuse and trample upon him is more worthy of making laws for him (the negro) than the negro is of making laws for himself. Such an infamous doctrine, such an insult to the negro race, such a slander upon the hand made of God, such an attack upon christianity, is enough to cause God to repent of having ever made man. And to teach him to divide politically is to teach him to ally himself with the democratic party, as the socialist, populist and other minor parties are made up of democrats who have been defeated in primaries or they are democratic cliques and schemes to weaken the republican party. I abhor, scorn, despise and have contempt for the negro who will ally himself or give aid to the democratic party. I had rather be a poison serpent wriggling along the road, biting, stinging and striking at every passerby, considering every living creature my enemy,



F. Qualls, Proprietor.

never wishing, caring for nor wanting a friend, coiling around some sapling, using mother Earth for my bed, a stone for my pillow, a dog fennel for my shelter. I had rather ten thousand times rather live such a careless and insignificant life than to ally myself with a political party to who seek to rob me and my posterity of the sacred and sublime right of suffrage. Perhaps you think one to pass separate car laws or I am saying too much, but I had rather be anything under the sun than a deceitful hypocrite trying to make friends with an enemy by cutting my own throat and enslaving my children. Say reader, every time you see of know of a negro running from oppressive laws is he not going from a democratic state to a republican state. Every democratic primary convention adopts resolutions endorsing the administrations that make these oppressive laws. There are democrats serving terms in our national congress now that made themselves prominent democratic leaders by adopting some plan to rob the negro of his rights. Say reader, have you ever known a legislative body except a democratic election restrictions that does not effect all alike. If so, tell me of it and I will be silent. Some one may say that the law requires equal accommodations in separate cars, but equal accommodations are not given and were not intended. You may say the state is not responsible for the railroad not giving equal accommodations but the state is responsible and I might sue, petition, beg, cry and supplicate until my life shall have been exhausted or until I have shed enough tears to irrigate the western highlands, there would be no officer sent to my rescue nor any decision protecting me from slanderous, outrageous and brutish accommodations given me by the railroads where separate cars are required and then for me to ally myself, give my vote, voice, aid, support or endorsement to a political institution that makes and executes such abominable laws would be wholesale treason. I have never allowed myself to consider anything concerning statehood, only how best

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the chaining of the door of tyranny, the granting of equal rights, the protection of the ballot, the freedom of speech, the maintenance of equal public accommodation, the blessing of every home, church and society, every heart or human soul with peace, joy and tranquility; can be had. And to accomplish this end I must oppose, reject vote against, make war upon every probably advantage offered those who practice and tolerate injustice. The idea is affat that separate statehood will give us a larger representation in congress but of what character or political affiliation will the representative be. Will he be a tyrant, a villain, a demagogue, a human fiend or will he be a pure hearted man, willing to give to each and all equal political rights and public accommodations. I had rather not be represented than represented by a national plunderer. I would like to know of what political affiliation my representative will be for we know that when the atrocious institution of slavery had made every christian in the union a thief, a burglar, a pretender, a hypocrite, an intruder upon the rights of men and when serfdom had caused the whole nation to pledge, to sacrifice its honor and integrity for the sake of peace and the protection of slavery, when the greedy slave holders became dissatisfied with the amount of human labor he could steal himself, called upon the whole nation to help him steal and made it a crime for any man to refuse, even preachers, deacons, elders and bishops were forced to help rob infant children, helpless women and age worn men, and a desire to eliminate these evils gave birth to the republican party and a desire to perpetuate them gave birth to the democratic party and each child has grown in the likeness of his mother and every jar, every shock, every defeat and every insult the republican party receives and Oklahoma begs us to come and let privileges are likewise affected and her help us to save our future state from the solid south column are we going to allow such a liberal offer to be laid upon the altar of negli-

gence, slayed by the hands of prejudice, while we set slumbering in the chair of indolence. I say no, never! We must unite hand and hand; might to might; power to power; shoulder to shoulder to shoulder and save our future state.

F. E. INGRAM.

Tallahassee, Ind. Ter.

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